Vol. VIII. Numb. 13

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on a Book intitul'd, The Vanity of Conqueſts and univerſal Monarchy, apply'd to the Attempts of *Lewis* the XIV. of *France*. *Reflexions on the Supporters of arbitrary Power either in Princes or Miniſters.* *A great Objection againſt the Naturalization-Bill, anſwer'd.*

From Saturday, March 12. to Wednesday, March 16. 1709.

Country-m. I Want your Opinion, Maſter, of the Book intitul'd, *The Vanity of Conqueſts, and univerſal Monarchy, apply'd to the Attempts of* Lewis *the XIV. of* France, that I brought you the other Day.

Obſ. I wiſh, that more of our Country Gentlemen, and particularly Members of Parliament, would employ their Time in that generous Way the Author has done, *Roger:* They might, by this Means, be made a great deal more fit to ſerve themſelves and their Country, than by ſpending ſo much Time, as too many do, in Hunting, Hawking, Drinking, haunting Plays, and reading fooliſh ſilly Novels and Play-books, which ſerve for nothing but to vitiate their Minds, to make them effeminate and luxurious, to introduce a Contempt of Religion and good Morals, which waſtes their Eſtates and Conſciences, and that never fails to bring down Judgments upon a Nation.

Country-m. And I have always obſerv'd, Maſter, that Principles of Slavery have been the Fore-runner of a Peoples being actually brought under Slavery and Oppreſſion. We cannot have a more remarkable Inſtance of this, than the miſerable Condition of *France*; for, when once that People began to loſe their Principles of Freedom and Liberty, and that their Great Men, for the Sake of Preferments at Court, run in headlong with the Meaſures of Courtiers, the Power of their Parliaments, or three Eſtates, came to in time to dwindle into nothing, the true Patriots were out-voted in every Thing, under Pretence of Neceſſities of State, and that the Crown having ſo many Enemies to deal with, it was not proper to give any Interruption to the Affairs of the Court; and ſo, by degrees, the ſame Arguments prevail'd for laying their Parliaments quite aſide. Since which Time, they have, as a juſt Puniſhment for ſurrendering their Liberties, been govern'd by a Rod of Iron, and their Lives and Eſtates abſolutely at the Diſpoſal of their Monarchs.

Obſ. How come you to know ſo much, *Roger?*

Country-m. Why, Maſter, I make my Son *Tom* turn over your Books now and then, and read me *Mezeray*, and other Hiſtorians, that I may be the better able to act the Part of your Country-man. I have alſo made him read me a good Part of this Book, Maſter, whereiai I find ſuch frightful Inſtances of arbitrary and deſpotick Power in the Hands of Princes and Courtiers, that makes me quite out of Love with it, and admire the Happineſs of our own Conſtitution more than ever.

Obſ. You have juſt Cauſe for that, *Roger*, tho' I am ſorry that Principles of Slavery grow ſo much in Faſhion again, and are propagated among us without Controul. It certainly forebodes Danger to our Conſtitution, when Men of arbitrary Principles, and reſtleſs Paſſions are come to ſuch a Height of Impudence while a Parliament is ſitting, as to juſtify the levying of Money by any of our former Princes, without Conſent of Parliament. The well-known Inſtance this Gentleman mentions of *Xerxes*, that quarter'd his vaſt Army on *Pythias* the *Lydian*, one of his Subjects, who, tho' he freely offer'd that Emperor 2000 Talents in Silver, and near four Millions in Gold, yet the tyrannical Prince, becauſe he deſir'd that one Son in five might be left at Home with him, to look after his Affairs, conſidering that he himſelf was ancient, did not only barbarouſly refuſe it, but commanded the poor young Man to be cut in pieces, one half of his Carcaſs to be lay'd on the Right, and the other on the Left, for the Army to march between them. And this Inſtance is ſo much the more remarkable, *Roger*, that *Xerxes* had but a little before, not only been ſo generous as to refuſe the 2000 Talents of Silver, and 4000000 of Gold, wanting 7000 Marks, that *Pythias* offer'd him, but order'd the 7000 Marks to be given him, to make up his 4000000. Which, together with the Inſtance of *Xerxes*'s weeping upon the Review of his Great Army, which ſome make 17000000 Foot and 80000 Horſe, in Conſideration, that in 100 Years Time not one of 'em would be alive, ſhews, that thoſe Acts of Tyranny were not ſo much the Fault of the Man, as of the Conſtitution which entruſted him with an abſolute Power, that no Mortal can bear, or know how to manage; as is plain from the Inſtance of *David* and *Solomon*, one the beſt of Kings and Men, and the other the wiſeſt of Princes, yet the Scripture has left ſeveral Inſtances of their arbitrary and tyrannical Proceedings in ſome Caſes upon Record, tho' the *Jewiſh* Conſtitution was far from allowing it, and that *David* himſelf had oppos'd it by Arms in *Saul*.

Country-m. That makes ſuch Men inexcuſable, Maſter, who at any Time have been guilty not only of countenancing an uncontroulable Power in Princes, but have ſacrific'd the Blood and Treaſure of Nations to the Ambition and Avarice of their Miniſters. Were the *Rehearſal* and his Tribe all tranſported for five or ſix Years, Maſter, to live under ſuch Governments, I am of Opinion, that upon their Return, they would be cur'd of their frantick Tranſports for arbitrary, incontrolable, and irreſiſtible Power in Princes, and trouble us no more with Declamations in favour of it.

Obſ. We need not doubt of that, *Roger*, for no Men complain more of Oppreſſion, than he himſelf and his Party, when their Extravagancies are curb'd. What rueful Cries do they make of Perſecution in *Scotland*, when they are any way reſtrain'd from ſetting up Meetings, where, contrary to Law, they pray for the Pretender, which they refuſe to do for her Majeſty? Beſides, *Roger*, we may very well remember, that when the late King *James* began to diſpoſe of their Colledges, &c. to his better belov'd Papiſts of the true *Romiſh* Stamp, *Nature did then rebel againſt Principle*; they join'd with thoſe who ſent for the Prince of *Orange*, to fright him into better Manners; and miſſing of their Aims at the Revolution, they form'd ſeveral Conſpiracies and Aſſaſſination-Plots againſt King *William* and Queen *Mary*; and we have not yet forgot, that Dr. *Drake*, and others of their Advocates, did threaten her preſent Majeſty with rouſing Nature againſt Principle, when ſhe made ſuch a Change in the Miniſtry as they did not think for their Purpoſe, which is enough to ſatisfy all Mankind, that the Party have nothing of Sincerity, that their pretended Principle is a mere Cheat, ſince they don't believe, or at leaſt practiſe one Word of it themſelves, but, like their Predeceſſors the *Phariſees*, (who unchurch'd

all

all but those of their own Way, our Saviour and his Disciples not excepted) would bind heavy Burdens upon other Mens Shou'ders, that they would not touch with one of their own Fingers. But enough of this at once, *Roger*. What do People say now of the Naturalization-Bill?

Country-m. Some People raise Hue and Cry against it, Master, and some of those who have been mute on other important Occasions, to do their Country Justice against Invaders, are solliciting very hard against the Bill; tho' I am satisfy'd, that many of those who promote it, do it with a View to enrich the Nation, and to strengthen the Protestant Interest and Succession against Men of arbitrary Principles and restless Passions at Home, and Invaders from Abroad.

Obs. But what new Objections are made against the Bill, *Roger*?

Country-m. I meet with several frightful ones, Master, and this particularly, that it will bring over such a Multitude of Foreigners, as by frequent Intermarriages, may go a great way to blot out the *English* Race.

Obs. That's a swinging Objection indeed, *Roger*; but even as they put it, 'twill amount to no more than a Mixture of foreign Protestants with our Race; and how much Damage will accrue to us from that, may be pretty well conjectur'd from several eminent Merchants and other Citizens of such an Extract, who make as good a Figure, promote our home Consumption and Exports, as much as any of those of the old *English* Race; and not a few of them have, on all Occasions, prov'd as good Patriots. Besides, *Roger*, had the Formers of this Objection consulted History and political Arithmetick a little more, they would never have rais'd the Objection. Did ever our Nation make such a Figure in the World, as they have done since the *Germans*, with their Colonies, brought over their native Valour and Liberties among us? Have all the pretended Conquests and arbitrary Governments, that have been attempted among us since, ever been able to wrest that noble Constitution of a mix'd Monarchy from us for any Tract of Time? Did *England* lose any Thing by entertaining such a brave Race of Men, instead of such effeminate, slavish, and dissolute Fellows, as *Gildas*, their own Countryman, represents the old *Britons* to have been? Nay, let's even take a View of that call'd the *Norman* Conquest: Was the fraudulent Bastard, with his victorious Army, and the oppressive Measures he took contrary to his Oath and our Laws, ever able to extinguish the *English* Race, or to make his Foreigners bear any Proportion to them? Did not the very Posterity of his *Normans*, from whom most of our Great Families, at present, are descended, stand up bravely for the Liberties of our Country, against the Tyrants of his Off-spring, during the Barons Wars, *&c.*? Did not they venture their Lives and Estates in Defence of *Magna Charta*, which was our Constitution before ever a *Norman* set Foot on the Island, with as great Resolution and Bravery as any of the old *English*? Then what Cause is there to raise such an Outcry against the Naturalization of foreign Protestants, who are not to come with Arms in their Hands, under the Conduct of a daring Warrior, or to settle all together in the Ile of *Thanet*, or any where else, with bold Generals, well-disciplin'd Troops, and great Navies, as the *Saxons* did, but by a few Families at a Time, with Money in their Pockets, or Stocks in their Hands, to improve our Trade, promote our Consumption, and to settle themselves thro' the Island, according to their Conveniency? Does any Body propose they should have Food and Drink, Firing, Cloathing, and House-Room for nothing? And if they must pay for all these, will not that bring more Money into the Island, and make it circulate?

Country-m. I can see no Ground for such an Outcry, Master; I rather promise my self an Advantage by it; I hope to have a better Price for my Corn, Cattel, and Wool, and to have Tenants for my empty Houses: and all my Neighbours promise themselves the like.

Obs. Besides, *Roger*, the Unreasonableness of the Apprehension, that they can come over in such Numbers as to blot out the *English* Race, will appear thus: By the Calculations of Sir *William Petty*, Mr. *King*, Dr. *Davenant*, and others, who have study'd political Arithmetick with so much Success and Applause, we had then seven Acres and a quarter *per* Head, and were capable of maintaining double the Number. Our People they computed at five Millions and an half in *England*, besides the Accession we have now of the large and prolific Kingdom of *Scotland*, which we may reasonably compute makes two Millions more. Now, *Roger*, I would fain know of those Gentlemen, whence they think half one Million of Protestants should come to take the Benefit of our Naturalization Act? And if they cannot tell me whence how is it possible they should extinguish the *English* Race?

Advertisements.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, represented in a Treatise of the Venereal Disease, together with an Appendix in answer to Mr. John Marten's Remarks thereupon. By J. Sinteler, Practitioner in Physick. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6d. together 3s. 6d. Sold by R. Gosling at the Mitre in Fleet-street, W. Cater at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the Black Bull in Cornhill, H. Rhodes at the Crown near Cecil-street in the Strand, B. Dod at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martin's-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dispensatory-house (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over against little Turn-stile.

Just published,

☞ The forgiving Husband, and adulterous Wife; or, a seasonable Present to the unhappy Pair in Fanchurch-street. By the Author of the London-Spy. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price 2d.

☞ Went away on Sunday the 6th Instant from the Lusitania Frigat, (John Wentworth Commander) John Adams, a Negro, aged 25 Years, near 6 Foot high, full-faced, lumber-lipt, lisps a little in Speech, wearing a Sea Jacket lin'd with Red. Whoever secures him, and brings him to the Sun Coffee-house behind the Royal Exchange, shall have five Guineas Reward.

☞ The extraordinary Success of Mr. William Crosse, Professor of Physick and Oculist, in curing Diseases of the Eyes, frequently recommends him to the assistance of several Persons afflicted with the most difficult Diseases of the same, who are, from Time to Time, by his Prescriptions, perfectly recover'd, after having ineffectually apply'd themselves to others, as is evident by Certificates given under their Hands; Variety of which may be seen at his House against Cecil-street in the Strand, where he is constantly to be advis'd with. ☞ There is lately published by the said Mr. Crosse, A brief Treatise of the Eyes, in which not only the Structure of the same is Anatomically demonstrated, but the Diseases (which for the most part are incident thereto) are likewise distinctly described. To which is added, some particular Directions for preserving the Sight, &c. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price bound 1s.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink against the Venereal Disease. Its wonderful Efficacy is such, that any Patient may be thereby most effectually cur'd, be it of never so long standing, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with most excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Nose fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction cures all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 20 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Use of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promises, if any Patient, tho' discouraged by other Practitioners, will come to his House, he will furnish them with Necessaries, as well as Physick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not satisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Physick. The Taste of this Decoction is so pleasant, and the Operation so kind to Nature, that Ladies, Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seasons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be spoken with at all seasonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over against little Turn-stile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be seen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

LONDON, Printed for the Use of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.